THE PROBLEM WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT

Vicky Mochama on the world crisis
metroNEWS

Ottawa metro

Health threats to watch for in 2017
metroLIFE

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016

High -2°C/Low -6°C Warm, at least relatively

Blackberry QNX director of engineering Sheridan Ethier speaks to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as he visits the Blackberry QNX facility in Ottawa on Monday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

READY TO ROLL

Trudeau talks tech as Blackberry announces Ottawa expansion — and possibly hundreds of new jobs metroNEWS

Full speed ahead on Highway 417

EXPANSION

$95M extends construction up to Island Park Drive

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

Highway 417 will be expanded along Carlington and Westboro, with four years of construction expected to start in 2017.

On Monday, the provincial and federal governments announced they'd be splitting the cost of upgrading a three-kilometre stretch of the highway. The Trans-Canada will go from six to eight lanes between Maitland Avenue and Island Park Drive.

"The province's commitment is to keep the three existing lanes open to traffic at peak times during construction," Karina Kim, a spokeswoman for Ontario' Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli, told Metro.

Both levels of governments are contributing up to $47.57 million each. The province claims the extension "will improve safety and traffic flow for all highway users ... by helping to reduce traffic congestion."

Ottawa South MP David McGuinty said it's part of an $180-billion federal infrastructure program that spans 12 years and everything from highways to public transit.

"This has to be seen in a wider context," McGuinty said. "It's a balance, and we've got to navigate between cars, transit, bikes, highways." He hinted there may be federal funding for projects out near Orleans once the province sets infrastructure plans.

"We have to be looking 80 or 100 years into the future," he said, noting the region's rising population.

Monday's announced extension includes the Merivale Road Bridge, next to the Westgate Shopping Centre. Bridges along the corridor were constructed in 1959 and rehabilitated in 1983. The province has upgraded some of them in recent years.

Just west of Monday's announced extension, ongoing construction continues from Maitland Road west to Carling Avenue. Crews are working to similarly expand the six lanes to eight, until an expected 2020 completion. That project includes repairing overpasses and sound barriers.

The province has invested more than $590 million into the highway since 2003, including the ongoing widening between Nicholas and the Highway 174 split, to accommodate LRT construction.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Obama pardons 78, shortens sentences for 153 in record number of clemencies granted. **World**

CONTAMINATION

Sir John Carling closed

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The federal government closed storm sewer connections and installed barriers to prevent contamination on the former Sir John Carling Building site from entering Dow's Lake.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) responded Monday to a Metro story identifying phenol contamination of groundwater on the site of the former Sir John Carling Building.

The site has been selected as the future location of the Ottawa Hospital after a lengthy process that identified other sites.

Documents obtained by Metro showed the department was ordered to put measures in place because of a "phenol slurry" in the groundwater on the site.

The chemical is believed to have been left behind after the demolition of the 11-storey Sir John Carling Building in 2014. The building was imploded and the cement crushed to fill in the basement levels.

In an email Pierre-Alain Bujold a spokesperson for the department said they worked with Environment Canada to deal with the issue and make sure the contamination does not leave the property.

"PSPC installed temporary silt barriers at the outfall to control the issue and to restrict sediment from entering further into Dow's Lake. The silt barriers have since been removed and contaminated sediment has been removed," he wrote.

The documents Metro obtained indicated that removing all of the buried cement was being considered as one option to deal with the contamination.

Bujold said the government had no estimate on what that might cost.

A spokesperson for the Ottawa Hospital said any issues with the land would be worked out through the transfer process, which is not underway.

"While we are not in a position to provide specific comment, we would consider any questions related to the condition of the Sir John Carling site will be addressed through the transfer process," said Stephen Chang-Fong, a spokesperson for the hospital.

Driver decks his route with Christmas cheer

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Pierre Morin rises early to decorate his bus every day

Selene Tam
For Metro | Ottawa

To arrive at work extra early every morning to decorate your vehicle, only to take down the lights and tinsel by the end of the workday, is a level of commitment not everyone has.

Pierre Morin, an Ottawa bus driver, does it every day for the holidays without complaint.

Morin, who also looks the part of Kris Kringle, said he wants to add just a little holiday colour to his bus.

"I put Christmas lights around the wheels and around the bars where people hold on to. I decorate the storage compartments where they put the laptops as well," said Morin.

"I do it all by myself before each shift and after each shift, I take it down all by myself," he said.

Morin has been a bus operator with the OC Transpo for 22 years. He currently drives route 97 from Bayshore all the way to the Ottawa airport.

Because he drives a different bus each day, Morin has to take down all the ornaments before the next operator takes over.

"There's a bit of work in it but with the reward I get I think it's worth it," said Morin.

Morin said he wants to make commuters' daily travels more "enjoyable" but more importantly he just likes to see the smile on people's faces when they hop onto his bus.

"Lots of people say I make their day. They make my day too by smiling," he said.

"It's a great feeling and also a great atmosphere," said Morin.

This is the third year since Morin started to decorate his bus for Christmas and he has no intentions of stopping soon.

"As long as I can do it, I will do it," said Morin.

Ottawa bus driver Pierre Morin, who just happens to closely resemble Santa Claus, is spreading Christmas cheer with a specially decorated bus. CONTRIBUTED/CITY OF OTTAWA

LABOUR

Feds reach tentative contract with public sector union

The federal government has reached a tentative contract with a public sector union in a deal that involves 68,000 public servants.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada says it includes a pay hike of 5.5 per cent over the four years of the collective agreement, plus a $650 signing bonus.

It also includes what the union describes as significant breakthroughs on sick leave and adjustments to the work force.

The workers covered by this deal include administration and support staff and communications employees.

The union members will vote on whether to accept the agreement sometime next year.

The union must still negotiate contracts for roughly another 30,000 of its members.

Earlier this month, the government reached a tentative deal with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, which represents more than 18,000 government workers including federal scientists.

In a statement Minister Scott Brisson said they welcomed a conclusion to the deal.

"We remain committed to reaching agreements with the rest of the public service so that we can all focus on delivering on our agenda of good jobs and growth for the middle class."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROAD SAFETY

Police, panel to share lessons from fatal crashes quicker

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police are teaming up for a new initiative that hopes to bring down the number of fatal collisions.

The Fatal Collision Review Committee is a collaboration between police, Safer Roads Ottawa, the City of Ottawa and the eastern regional supervising coroner's office.

The group met for the first time on Dec. 8 and will meet within 10 days following a fatal collision to share information.

"It was formed so we could give the city the best advice on reducing fatal collisions," said Staff Sgt. François D'Aoust of the police's technical investigations unit.

Before the committee, the police weren't allowed to share any info involving an ongoing investigation — even if they had a suggestion that could help prevent further deaths.

"If they saw corrections to be made — recommendations on roads, engineering or increased social media campaigns on a certain topic — we weren't able to discuss with the public or with members of city hall the causes of the collision until the investigation was concluded, which can take a year or a year and a half in the court system," he said.

> **It was formed so we could give the city the best advice on reducing fatal collisions.**
> Staff Sgt. François D'Aoust

The committee operates confidentially, and suggestions made in the meeting are not public information.

D'Aoust said it will allow investigators to share the cause of incidents and make suggestions to the city about education campaigns, engineering modifications and enforcement initiatives.

D'Aoust said there was no one incident this year that prompted the creation of the committee.

All fatal incidents involving a vehicle are discussed, including motorcycles cars, bicycles, and snowmobiles.

Ottawa's most recent fatal collision took place last Thursday, when a car and an OC Transpo bus collided on Tenth Line Road in the city's east end.

The man in the car was pronounced dead at the scene, while the woman driving the bus was trapped but did not suffer any serious injuries.

CRIME

Police seek robbery suspects

The Ottawa Police robbery unit is investigating after a young man was stabbed early Monday morning.

Police were called to Richelieu Court, an affordable housing complex in Vanier, around 3 a.m. on Monday.

Police say two suspects broke into the home and were confronted by two people living in the apartment.

One occupant was stabbed multiple times, while the second occupant was threatened by a suspect brandishing a handgun. The suspects fled empty-handed from the premises.

Upon arrival, police said they found the male victim in his 20s suffering from stab wounds.

The man was transported to hospital and is currently in stable condition.

Police are looking for the two suspects. One is described as a white male, with short hair on the sides but longer on top pulled into a man bun. He was wearing dark clothing.

The second suspect is described as a black male with a scar on his face. He was wearing a winter coat and dark pants with white stripes on the sides.

The suspects fled in a parked car, described as a black four-door Toyota or similar.

Police are also looking to speak to a woman who apparently followed the suspects into the building.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sits behind a test vehicle at the Blackberry QNX facility in Ottawa on Monday following the announcement it would open a new innovation centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

City to be hub for autonomous cars

INNOVATION

Blackberry's new centre will be dedicated to software

BlackBerry subsidiary QNX is stepping up its work on autonomous vehicles in Ottawa, announcing Monday morning that it would open a new $100-million "innovation centre" dedicated to developing software for connected and self-driving vehicles.

BlackBerry CEO John Chen and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were at the company's Kanata facilities Monday morning to announce the new BlackBerry QNX Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Centre.

Chen told reporters that the new hub would lead to some 650 new Ottawa-based jobs in the coming years.

In a statement, the company said it would be recruiting software engineers to advance its engineering projects. According to the company, QNX's current Ottawa presence stands at around 400 people.

"We picked Ottawa because of the skills in our engineering team, and we intend to build the centre up and recruit not only a lot of talent and build the next generation of auto technology, but also recruit a lot of partners," Chen told reporters.

Trudeau echoed Chen's confidence in the local tech sector, calling the new project "a testament to a deeply entrenched culture of innovation here in our nation's capital."

The investment illustrates a significant shift that's underway at BlackBerry as the firm's focus shifts away from the mobile handsets and hardware that made it one of Canada's most recognizable corporate brands. Chen said BlackBerry is targeting the software security market, wherever security intersects with mobility.

"This is not restricted to cars. Cars happened to be the most receptive part of the market today. We are in the embedded security software business, including QNX. This is going to be much broader than cars, but cars are the beginning of it," Chen says. "Everything we do here in Ottawa is part of that."

Chen says the company will be "building an ecosystem" by involving its industry partners, such as the University of Waterloo, in the new autonomous vehicle centre. The presence of such organizations is also expected to bolster Ottawa's tech employment.

The federal government is among those partners, Chen said, although he declined to comment on any possible financial contributions from taxpayers. He said that the major contribution from the government will be in the form of connections to federal departments and policymakers to allow for the autonomous driving industry to flourish in the country.

> **This is going to be much broader than cars, but cars are the beginning of it.** BlackBerry's John Chen

650

The number of new Ottawa-based jobs the new BlackBerry QNX Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Centre is expected to create in the coming years, BlackBerry CEO John Chen told reporters.

Wall also anticipates the need for new or expanded space in the coming years as the company's Ottawa presence grows, but couldn't speak specifically to their needs or potential moves at this time.

In recent years, QNX has expanded its efforts into the realm of autonomous vehicles. It's been developing object recognition technology so that a car can read a stop sign, for example, or recognize an adjacent lane. On top of that, the company looks to enable cars to actually communicate with driving infrastructure, and even with other cars.

Late last month, QNX joined a pilot project overseen by the provincial government to test autonomous vehicles on Ontario's roads. And in early November, the company signed an agreement with Ford Motor Co. to beef up how its technology is used to create safe, connected vehicles.

CRAIG LORD/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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SCHOOLS

Falling debris scares parents

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A minor incident last week at Connaught Public School in Hintonburg had parents worried that construction site debris was putting kids in harm's way.

Parents were alarmed when a number of children came home from the school's after-class program reporting flying rocks and dirt coming from construction on the school.

Taggart Construction has an ongoing project on the north side of the school.

Last Tuesday students reported that one child attending the school's after-school program had been hit by some dirt or gravel, dislodged by drilling.

The child was not injured and the teacher quickly checked in with the kids and moved them from the buffer zone, according to OCDSB spokesperson Sharlene Hunter.

"The school principal communicated with Taggart and they put measures in place to ensure this incident does not occur again," said Hunter.

She said the construction firm has committed to stop drilling while school is in session and complete that phase only on weekends.

Sophia Wong, co-chair of the school council, said the incident was likely overblown by a lack of detail supplied to parents.

"What happened last week was mostly a miscommunication," she said.

"Some of the kids went home and told their parents that rocks flew over the fence and hit them. It might have been blown out of proportion, that's why we're having this meeting tomorrow," she said.

The school council is meeting Tuesday night, with the incident being the "top item" on the agenda.

"It's not a cause for concern, but parents of course do want to know how school administration and the developers can improve communication. Incidents are going to happen but it was remedied immediately," said Wong.

"The gap here was that there wasn't enough communication with the parents and it escalated. They didn't realize the problem had been solved."

The Ottawa Airport will see major passenger volume this week as Christmas approaches with the biggest numbers expected on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airport ready for a rush

HOLIDAYS

Travellers told to be prepared, Friday will be busiest day

Selene Tam
For Metro | Ottawa

With Christmas fast approaching, Ottawa International Airport is expected to get a lot busier this week.

Krista Kealey, a spokesperson for the airport, said it's always busy this time of year.

The coming Friday will be the busiest time of the season, said Kealey, so travellers should be prepared.

According to statistics from the Ottawa International Airport Authority, the number of passengers coming through the airport has steadily been increasing over the last few years.

In 2012, a total of 378,696 passengers came through the airport in December, part of an overall 4.6 million people who came through.

Last year's holiday season was even busier, with 387,230 passengers coming through in December 2015.

Yet, with more people preparing to travel during the festive season, airlines are not increasing their flights and in some cases are cutting down.

Robert Palmer, media relations for WestJet said in an email:

"The flights that operate during this holiday period are the same ones that operate throughout our winter schedule which begins in early November each year and runs until the end of April."

Palmer said they will not be offering direct flights to Vancouver and Moncton this winter, unlike the previous year.

Those planning domestic trips should consult the airline's website for the daily flight schedules.

Kealey said flight delays can crop up during this time of year as well, usually because of the weather.

"Passengers this season should always check their schedules ahead of time and be aware of the changes," she said.

> "Passengers this season should always check their schedules ahead of time. Krista Kealey

INVESTIGATION

Ottawa police to review Mountie child-abuse cases

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau has ordered a review of how his force investigated an RCMP officer who was convicted after chaining up his 11-year-old son for months and tormenting him with a barbecue lighter.

At a Monday meeting, Bordeleau told the Ottawa Police Services Board that his officers first responded to the boy going missing in 2011, before was found at a neighbour's home. Some 15 months later, the boy escaped again to a neighbour's house in February 2013, where he begged for water.

Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau says his force did "a cursory review" of the case, and found the police responded adequately with the information they had available.

"But we want to delve into the complete file and have conversations to understand [if there are] things we could learn as a police service," he told reporters Monday, adding that they may also hear from the Children's Aid Society.

"We understand the questions about this initial response," he told the board. "We are asking the same questions ourselves."

The 44-year-old RCMP officer, who worked on counter-terrorism cases, had recorded videos of his wet, emaciated son tied naked to a pole.

The officer, who cannot be named, said at the trial he was "living with the devil" and feared his son would have stabbed him in his sleep.

The man and his wife were convicted Nov. 21 on multiple abuse charges.

Caitlan Coleman and Joshua Boyle with their children. TWITTER

Canadian hostage, kids seen in video

AFGHANISTAN

Held since 2012, family describes 'Kafkaesque nightmare'

A video showing the two children of Canadian captive Joshua Boyle and his American wife Caitlan Coleman for the first time was posted online Monday as Coleman describes what they call a "Kafkaesque nightmare."

The family has been held by the Taliban-linked Haqqani Network since 2012 — both boys born in captivity. Coleman says the video was made Dec. 3 and as they ask for their freedom she says both her children "have seen their mother defiled."

"We understand both sides hate us," she says. "And are content to leave us and our two surviving children in these problems… We ask quickly that in our collective fourteenth year of prison, urge the governments on both sides to reach some agreement to allow us freedom."

Boyle, 33, and Coleman, 31, were kidnapped near Kabul during a backpacking trip through Central Asia in October 2012. Coleman was five months pregnant at the time and gave birth to their son in custody. They had a second boy in 2015, after what Boyle told his parents was a "7 ½ month surreptitious pregnancy."

Boyle delivered his second son in the darkness by flashlight. "Ta-da!" he wrote in correspondence seen by Torstar News Service. "The astonished captors were good and brought all our post-partum needs, so he is now fat and healthy, praise God."

Boyle's writings, delivered through intermediaries and written in his tiny penmanship, provided a glimpse into his family's life in captivity.

"We are trying to keep spirits high for the children and play Beautiful Life," he wrote.

Boyle's parents believe this is a reference to the movie in which a father protects his son from the brutalities of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending it is just a game.

The writings also had references to the boys, along with Stompin' Tom Connors lyrics and Mother Teresa quotes, International Space Station and Rudyard Kipling and Thomas Merton poems. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

B.C. funeral homes asked to distribute naloxone

As opioid overdoses spike in B.C., the British Columbia Funeral Association is recommending members carry naloxone, a drug that can be used to reverse the effects of overdoses, because of the increased likelihood a mortician or other staff member will come into contact with lethal opioids like fentanyl.

The number of overdose deaths related to illicit drugs leapt to 755 by the end of November, a more than 70 per cent jump over the number of fatalities recorded during the same time period last year. The B.C. Coroners Service says fentanyl was detected in 374 of the cases, or about 60 per cent of deaths.

Rob Wintonyk, president of Ontario Funeral Service Association, said he thinks the danger lies "in a small portion of the drug remaining on [the deceased person's] clothes and it might come into contact with a worker." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HALIFAX

Critters stranded at airport in shipping delay

Adina Bresge
For Metro | Halifax

A batch of live animals are recovering in their enclosures after a harrowing, four-day shipping delay at the Halifax airport, according to a pet store manager.

Terri-Ann Crisby said two chinchillas, two hamsters, two geckos and 40 fish were scheduled to be shipped on an overnight flight from Montreal to Gander on Wednesday, but the order was held up during a connection in Halifax enroute to northeastern Newfoundland.

By the time the animals arrived Sunday morning, Crisby said all but 32 fish survived the journey to Pet Central in Gander, N.L., after being stranded for days due to bad weather.

Crisby said she drove to the airport eight times between Thursday and Sunday, but each time she arrived, she was told her shipment had been bumped.

She called Air Canada to stress that live animals need to be handled differently than baggage.

"I even asked them if they could just open their containers and give them some water and food," said Crisby. "They said because of liability reasons they couldn't."

Crisby called a pet store in Halifax, who sent someone to tend to the critters. After nearly 48 hours in transit, the rodents replenished and the geckos warmed up on heating pads.

In an e-mailed statement, a spokesperson for Air Canada said the airline takes great care when transporting "live cargo," such as ensuring tropical animals are packed to withstand the cold during "irregular operations."

According to the airline, the pet store's shipment contained goldfish and crickets.

Crisby insists she didn't order any crickets, but said Air Canada was well aware that her order included mammals because they are shipped in see-through containers.

*Discount is taken off ticket price. Exclusions apply. See store for details.
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A man identified as Mevlut Mert Altintas killed Andrei Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, shouting: 'Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!' AP & GETTY IMAGES

We need to talk about the real tragedy

The man who killed the Russian ambassador was born in 1994, the year of the Rwandan Genocide, and was 16 when the Syrian civil war started; a child became a man in monstrous times

Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

Angry young men with weapons — trucks, guns, bombs, the Internet — exist everywhere; they have the ability to upend fragile peaces and spark destructive wars. An apparent terror attack in Berlin, and the assassination of the Russian ambassador to Turkey yesterday are being compared with the initiating acts of World War I.

I don't know if the comparison is fair, but I am concerned that these tragedies will exacerbate the global refugee crisis. According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, there are 65.3 million displaced persons, the largest movement of people since the end of World War I. Nearly a third of the refugee population comes from Syria (4.9 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million) and Somalia (1.1 million).

In fear, they have crossed continents by foot, on trucks, over water and by plane. In danger, they have negotiated with criminal traffickers, marine patrols and refugee camp staff. In hope, they have sent children ahead alone, sold everything to get to anywhere else and prayed for salvation. Too many have received none.

The Syrian crisis hasn't exposed the limits of our humanitarian claims. Dadaab refugee camp's twenty-five years of existence already showed our hand. What appears to be a looming genocide in South Sudan has been met with relative silence. Northern Nigeria remains besieged by Boko Haram. The Syrian crisis has solidified those limits.

Security guards a Christmas market in Berlin. GETTY IMAGES

It has been over a year since the body of Alan Kurdi made front pages across the world. He wasn't the last child to escape the world's wilful ignorance.

I couldn't help but be struck by the age of the man who killed the Russian ambassador. He was born in 1994, the year of the Rwandan Genocide, and was 16 when the Syrian civil war started; a child became a man in monstrous times. For him and so many, the global community's "never again" continues to mean "again and again."

Nonetheless, it is a heinous murder that, with its echoes from a century ago, is inexcusable. The true tragedy is that this horrific act further endangers the very people it claims to be defending. More than half of Syrian refugees have fled to Turkey where they live in a fraught atmosphere. In the last few months, Turkey has experienced a series of terror attacks and a failed coup.

There is no evidence that the gunman was a refugee. That will hardly matter. The example of Kenya and its Somali population shows that refugees easily become political footballs to be tossed around with calculated cruelty.

In Canada, our connection to the plight of the Kurdi family spurred a national response. Whether as duty or as penance, we took in 25,000 Syrians. That is a drop in the bucket. This effort pales in comparison to the scale of the crisis. "Refugees Welcome" should be more than a slogan, it should become our way of life.

LATEST NEWS

TURKEY

Invoking Syria, gunman kills Russian ambassador

A Turkish policeman fatally shot Russia's ambassador to Turkey on Monday in front of a shocked gathering at a photo exhibit and then, pacing near the body of his victim, appeared to condemn Russia's military role in Syria, shouting: "Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!"

People at the art gallery watched in horror as the gunman, who was wearing a dark suit and tie, fired at least eight shots, at one point walking around Ambassador Andrei Karlov as he lay motionless and shooting him again at close range.

The assailant, who was identified as Mevlut Mert Altintas, a 22-year-old member of Ankara's riot police squad, was later killed in a shootout with police. Three other people were wounded in the attack, authorities said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

Truck rams Berlin Christmas market, killing at least 12

A truck rammed into a crowded Christmas market in central Berlin on Monday evening, killing at least 12 people and injuring around 50 as it tore through tables and wooden stands. Police said a suspect believed to be the driver was arrested nearby and a passenger died as paramedics were treating him.

The popular Christmas market was filled with a mix of tourists and locals when the large truck hurtled into it. Germany's top security official said initial evidence pointed to an intentional act, and the White House condemned "what appears to have been a terrorist attack."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Obama grants record pardons to 78 people in last-minute clemency push

President Barack Obama has pardoned 78 people and shortened the sentence of 153 others convicted of federal crimes, the greatest number of individual clemencies in a single day by any president, the White House said Monday.

Obama has been granting commutations at rapid-fire pace in his final months in office, but he has focused primarily on shortening sentences of those convicted of drug offences rather than giving pardons.

Neil Eggleston, Obama's White House counsel, said Obama has now pardoned a total of 148 people during his presidency. He has also shortened the sentences of 1,176 people, including 395 serving life sentences.

Eggleston said each clemency recipient's story is unique, but a common thread of rehabilitation underlies all of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama pardoned 78 people and shortened sentences for 153 others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWITZERLAND

Gunman attacks Zurich mosque

A gunman dressed in black stormed into the prayer hall of a mosque frequented by Somali immigrants and opened fire, wounding three people before fleeing, a Zurich police spokesman said Monday.

Police, who rushed to the scene in a central neighbourhood known for trendy cafes and the city's red-light district, were also investigating a possible connection to the discovery of a corpse at nearby Gessner bridge over the Sihl River, police spokesman Marco Bisa said.

Authorities weren't considering the attack as terrorism. Police also said it was too early to determine whether there might be any link to an incident in Berlin also on Monday, where a truck rammed into a Christmas market.

"The unknown person fired several shots and fled from the building," Bisa said. "The shooting took place inside a prayer room with several people in it. Two victims were severely injured."

Bisa but did not specify the nationalities of the people injured.

At the scene, Abukav Abshirow, a 30-year-old Somali man who works at a Zurich car dealership, said his friend was among the injured. He recalled how they had been celebrating a religious occasion at the centre the night before.

"I am under shock," he said. "We've had great times here. The atmosphere was always friendly and happy at the centre."

Attacks by gunmen are rare in Switzerland. The country was shaken in 2013 by at least two multiple-fatality shootings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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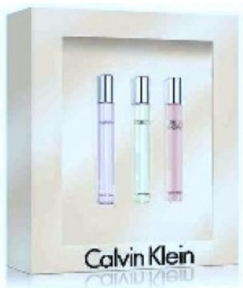

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Provinces spurn feds' offer

NEGOTIATIONS

Pledge of $11B fails to bridge health-care funding gap

The federal government pulled billions of dollars off the negotiating table Monday after failing to reach a long-term health-care funding agreement with the provinces and territories.

Ottawa sweetened its offer at midday in the face of withering criticism from provincial health and finance ministers, but it wasn't enough to bridge the widening gap between the two sides.

"We were working today to have partners with the provinces and territories," Finance Minister Bill Morneau told a news conference. "We were unsuccessful in that effort."

Morneau and federal Health Minister Jane Philpott had offered $11 billion over 10 years for home care and mental health, on top of a 3.5 per cent annual increase in health transfers to the province.

That offer now appears to be off the table, reverting back to $8 billion over 10 years, with an annual transfer payment increase that's poised to drop next April to three per cent a year — half the six per cent it has been since 2004.

Provincial health ministers wait to speak as a group before a meeting with the federal finance and health ministers in Ottawa on Monday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We were disappointed that the provinces and territories did not feel that they could accept this offer," Philpott said.

The talks appeared doomed from the start, with the provinces accusing the Trudeau government of refusing to negotiate a new federal health-care funding framework, instead putting forward what they considered a lacklustre take-it-or-leave-it offer.

Quebec Health Minister Gaetan Barrette had threatened to walk out if the federal government didn't put more money on the table.

Earlier Monday, Philpott ducked questions about the concerns of the provinces, describing Ottawa's earlier offer of mental health and home care cash as "historic" and "transformative."

"They can't continue to make ultimatums, to make threats," said Manitoba Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen.

Philpott appeared wilfully blind to the dissent, saying she was "absolutely delighted" with her government's "substantial offers on the table" as she skated around questions about the provincial concerns.

"This is a transformative, historic offer — we're changing the face of health care in this country," she said. "I am certainly optimistic that the provinces and territories would not walk away from something like this."

But walk away they did — although not before the meetings were over, which appeared a distinct possibility as the day began.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOMBARDIER

Brazil threatens trade challenge

Bombardier pushed back against Brazil after the South American country vowed on Monday to launch a trade challenge against Canada over financial support for the aerospace and transportation company.

Company spokesman Olivier Marcil says the Montreal-based company is confident that all investments in the company "are fully compliant" with all World Trade Organization rules and regulations.

He added that Brazil's threatened action is "ironic" given the level of government subsidies and support it has given to Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer.

Bombardier responded after Brazil's Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying support for the company is incompatible with WTO rules and affects its Brazilian rival.

Brazil is complaining about $2.5 billion US in investments injected into Bombardier.

Bombardier received a $1-billion US investment in the CSeries jet from the Quebec government this year and in late 2015 sold a 30 per cent stake in its railway division to pension fund manager the Caisse de depot for US$1.5 billion.

Ottawa is also looking to invest $1 billion US, which Brazil says is designed to ensure the viability of the new commercial jet by supporting sales at artificially reduced prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

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PROJECT

Lab adapts toys for disabled children

Because of her cerebral palsy, four-year-old Scarlett Wilgis has trouble opening her hands and can't get around without help. Her parents have scoured store shelves and websites for toys for her but have mostly been disappointed.

While major toy-makers have changed with the times and sell dolls with wheelchairs and crutches, those designed to be used by children with severe disabilities are still difficult, if not impossible, to find. Because the toys have to be customized for each child, the cost can skyrocket. This conundrum gave two University of North Florida professors an idea: mix engineering and physical therapy students in a lab with the goal of converting toys from store shelves into custom-made fun for disabled children.

The Adaptive Toy Project is now in its third year and has drawn a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. It is helping families such as Scarlett's while giving the students a dose of community service and real-world experience that will stick with them.

"Engineering students teach the physical therapy students how to modify basic electronics ... and in the process engineers learn how to do people-centred designs, and how to look at their clients differently," said Mary Lundy, a UNF professor of physical therapy who started the Adaptive Toy Project with an engineering colleague.

Chris Martin, an electrical engineering student, replaced the steering of Scarlett's car with a large push button. Light sensors under the car allow it to follow a line of tape along the floor whenever Scarlett hits the button. Scarlett's parents can design routes with tape or use a remote-control for family walks.

The cars retail between $250 and $500; the customization makes it worth well over $1,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

University of North Florida students customize a toy car so it can be used by a girl with cerebral palsy.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$2.5 billion

The amount Brazil is complaining about in investments injected into Bombardier.

market minute

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74.53¢ (–0.41¢)

TSX
15,269.85 (+17.65)

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NATURAL GAS: $3.39 US (–2.0¢)
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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON TRUDEAU AS PARLIAMENTARIAN

Question period has never been a prime venue for intellectual honesty, and Trudeau is not reinventing the genre.

Notwithstanding a spotty attendance record, Justin Trudeau spoke no less than 513 times in the House of Commons — mostly as part of question period — since the 42nd Parliament opened late in 2015.

Over the past year, the prime minister delivered more bromides than policy statements. The day Trudeau rose in the House to declare his intention to set a national floor price on carbon was a notable exception.

But the climate change issue — even as it has been top of mind for the Liberal government since it took power — was not one of the topics most raised with the prime minister in the House this year.

Pride of place in the list of questions put to Trudeau goes instead to political financing and the Liberal practice of offering private face time with the prime minister or one of his ministers in exchange for donations to the party.

Trudeau was asked more than 100 questions related to his and his cabinet's participation in cash-for-access events, and the potential conflicts-of-interest that could arise from the practice.

He dismissed most of those questions with a blanket assurance that all rules were being followed. The record shows that on at least 25 occasions, Trudeau repeated the same answer almost word for word.

Trudeau is hardly the first PM to resort to obfuscation and evasion. That may be why his stonewalling has so far not exacted much of a cost.

In so doing, the prime minister mostly demonstrated the limited virtues of repetition.

At year's end, there remains a glaring disconnect between his contention that the fuss over cash-for-access is unwarranted and the guidelines that state "there should be no preferential access to government, or appearance of preferential access, accorded to individuals or organizations because they have made financial contributions to politicians and political parties."

COMMONS MAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during question period on Parliament hill on Dec. 7.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Electoral reform was the other issue that dogged Trudeau in the House over the past year. He was on the receiving end of more than 40 questions about his promise to introduce a different voting system in time for the next election. Over the year, his intentions became harder rather than easier to pin down.

When a special parliamentary committee was tasked with exploring the issue in June, the focus of the prime minister's interventions in the House was on the mandate he claimed he had to change the way Canadians elect their government.

"Sixty per cent of Canadians voted in favour of parties that promised to change the current voting system. Canadians clearly indicated that they wanted the most recent election to be the last one conducted under the existing system," Trudeau told the House just before it adjourned for the summer.

But by December, he did not sound as certain or as enamoured of his mandate. "The fact is there are many, many different perspectives across this country on electoral reform," the prime minister told the MPs who wanted to know how he would follow up on the special committee report.

Question period has never been a prime venue for intellectual honesty, and Trudeau is not reinventing the genre. He is hardly the first prime minister to resort to obfuscation and evasion to talk his way out of unwanted opposition questions. That may be why his stonewalling has so far not exacted much of a political cost.

For all the travel Trudeau does at home and abroad, Canadians would, in theory, be more likely to catch a glimpse of the prime minister in action in the Commons where he appears more regularly than anywhere else.

In practice though, that is not the case.

In its annual tally of Canada's news coverage the Montreal firm Influence Communication found that with the exception of the federal budget, the most reported-on Canadian political events of the past year took place off the Hill.

In its year-end review of 2016 Canadian politics, CTV listed just one story — the adoption of Canada's right-to-die legislation — in which Parliament truly took centre stage.

An Abacus poll published this weekend reported that one third of Canadians had not heard of the fundraising controversy the opposition and the media have so consistently hammered Trudeau about over the past few months.

Almost half said they had not heard of the ongoing online consultation on electoral reform — and that's after the government sent a card about it to every household.

By any measure, much of what happens on Parliament ends up staying on Parliament Hill. That is not just because there are fewer journalists to cover what goes on there. But more on that in a future column.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer.

We need to know for whom the hell tolls will be beneficial

COLLINS' CAPITAL
Steve Collins

OC Transpo customer experience last week: waiting in line to top up a Presto card with a $5 bill and discovering the minimum load is $10.

I react perhaps too frankly to this revelation and am reminded by the unfailingly pleasant and professional customer service rep that she doesn't make the rules.

Indeed, it can be difficult to pinpoint who does. If I inquired with OC Transpo, I'd likely be referred to Presto and/or Metrolinx to tell me that's just the way it is: $6 for a card, $10 if you actually want to go anywhere, take it or leave it. I didn't follow up. Still, one wonders how Tim Horton's stays in business with a minimum card load of two bucks.

Logically, I can't imagine why you'd be required to add more than the price of one ride — a price that goes up 10 per cent in January. In part, this will help cover an increasing bite of fares that will go to Presto, the payment system our city was pushed by the province into adopting, with gas tax revenues as the carrot.

Pressure aside, at least local government made the decision to put us in the hands of Metrolinx.

In general, decisions about city services should be made by city governments, which was why an open letter last week from big-city mayors (including ours) arguing for the power to impose tolls for specific purposes, for "the tools to do the job and the accountability that goes with them," was encouraging.

It's refreshing to see mayors step up and claim primary responsibility for local matters. Ottawa's council has repeatedly hesitated to even ask the province for more control over its own affairs, the option to bring in photo radar, for example, or election finance reform (the latter having been thrust upon them anyway by provincial legislation).

Mayor Watson was at pains last week to explain his signature on the letter didn't indicate any radical conversion to charging Ottawa motorists for congestion and other costs they impose on their fellow citizens.

"I've indicated that I would be supportive of some kind of a toll in the truck tunnel for King Edward to help pay for that initiative, but I'm not in favour of tolls," he explained.

Such a scheme is a sensible way to pay for the project, which could cost up to $2 billion by one recent estimate.

It's also easier to charge users for new infrastructure like the tunnel than try to put a price tag on what had been free the day before, like driving the Gardiner Expressway or the DVP, as Toronto's council decided last week.

Local politicians know there is a price for everything, and the price of tolls and other user fees, if imposed without making the case to those who will pay them, could ultimately be paid with their jobs. As city voters, we can make smart decisions or short-sighted ones, and live with the consequences. And that should be up to us.

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metro LIFE

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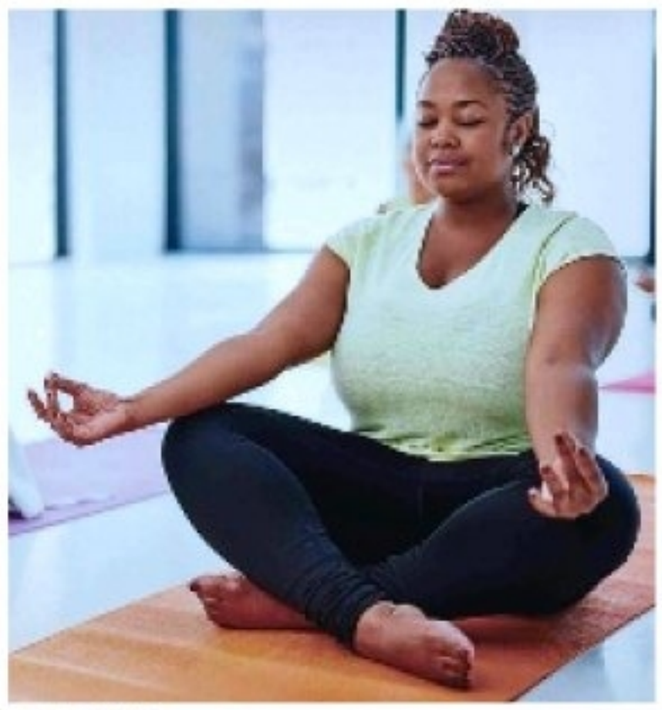
Girl group Fifth Harmony have become four: Camila Cabello leaves to pursue solo career

Top health issues of 2017



Dr. Gregory Taylor sees lifestyle diseases, antimicrobial resistance and healthier cities as key issues facing his successor as the nation's top medic. ISTOCK;THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INSIGHT

Canada's outgoing chief doctor talks future threats

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

During his tenure as Canada's official top doctor, Gregory Taylor spent much of his time responding to two viruses that weren't on our radar a few years ago: Ebola and Zika.

"The list of what I didn't get to is very long," said Taylor, who left the post last week.

In between global health crises, he issued reports to parliament on alcohol abuse and family violence and worked on educating the public about how closely health and lifestyle are connected. He even calls the health-care system the "disease care system."

In a wide-ranging conversation with Metro, Taylor outlined the health issues he thinks will dominate the years to come. And he has some ideas for how the next Chief Public Health Officer should face them.

On lifestyle diseases

There's a very long list of things we need to be focusing on. But the top one for me is lifestyle diseases. These problems are wickedly complicated. And the solutions to these problems are outside the health sector. By lifestyle, I mean obesity, physical activity, poor nutrition. One of the indicators of that is diabetes. Our rates in the last few years have virtually doubled. We're not really getting ahead at all on obesity. It's a reflection of a developed society where we eat ourselves sick.

On healthy cities

We've known for many, many years that the built environment has a huge effect on health. Some cities are very hot and it's hard on some people. The walkability of cities and the availability of rapid transit are extremely important. I work with the age-friendly cities initiative at the World Health Organization. And age-friendly cities are healthy for everyone because they're easy to get around in.

On superbugs

Antimicrobial resistance is a big issue that we're trying to face. Organisms naturally evolve and become resistant to antibiotics. We've been OK up to now because there've been new ones that have been invented. Well, we've been overusing antibiotics in humans and animals and the rate at which they become resistant has increased. The drug companies aren't producing new antibiotics. This is a real, global crisis, and if we don't address this we're going to go back to the pre-antibiotic era — infections can kill you, and we won't be able to do minor surgical procedures.

On the direction of research

We need research to make sure we're implementing the knowledge and science we already have. It took us 40 years to get tobacco rates down. And we knew for a long, long time how dangerous tobacco was. We focus a lot on educating people. And that's great. But it's not sufficient to do behaviour change. Vaccination hesitancy is a really good example. We have safe, effective, cheap interventions that prevent disease. Yet we have significant numbers of Canadians who don't trust that. So how do we convince those to trust us? That's some of the implementation research we need.

It's a reflection of a society where we eat ourselves sick.
Dr Gregory Taylor, on diabetes rates

On what Canada's next top doctor will face

What keeps me up at night, and what I assume will keep the next person up at night, is that we really don't know what those unforeseen things are. Nobody could have predicted Ebola. What's next? We're not sure. It's most likely, because of climate change and factors like that, that it's going to be a vector-borne disease (a disease, like malaria, that is spread from person to person by a vector such as mosquitoes). What keeps me up at night is making sure we have the right staff and the right competencies so that we're prepared no matter what.

STUDY

Does a doctor's gender help your chances of survival?

What if your doctor's gender could influence your chance of surviving a visit to the hospital?

A study of older patients hospitalized for common illnesses raises that provocative possibility — and also lots of questions. Patients who got most of their care from women doctors were more likely to leave the hospital alive than those treated by men.

The differences were small — about 11 per cent of patients treated mostly by women died within 30 days of entering the hospital, versus 11.5 per cent of those treated by men. But the all-male research team estimated that there would be about 32,000 fewer deaths each year in the U.S. if male physicians performed at the same level as their female peers.

The study didn't probe why there might be these differences in survival. And Dr. Ashish Jha, the lead author, said the study doesn't mean patients should avoid him and all other male physicians.

But he said male doctors could take a cue from women doctors' tendencies that might contribute to better care. According to other research, women doctors are more likely than men to follow treatment guidelines, provide preventive care more often and communicate more.

Jha said that it was important to better understand the reasons behind the differences, and to share that information with all physicians to improve care.

Jha, an internist and Harvard Medical School professor, said he has not spoken to his own patients about the study — yet.

"As a male physician, I have a stake in this," Jha said.

32,000

The research team estimated that there would be about 32,000 fewer deaths each year in the U.S. if male physicians performed at the same level as female peers.

The study was published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

The researchers looked at data involving more than 1.5 million hospitalizations for Medicare patients aged 65 and older between January 2011 and December 2014. Patients' illnesses included pneumonia, heart failure, intestinal bleeding, urinary infections and lung disease.

All were treated by general internists in the hospital. The researchers compared results in patients who got most or all of their care from women internists with those who got most or all of their care from men.

Most patients survived and were sent home within a month of treatment. But in addition to better survival chances, those treated by women doctors were slightly less likely to be re-admitted to the hospital within that first month.

On average, women doctors were in charge of fewer patients and some of their patients weren't as sick as those of male doctors, but the researchers considered those factors and still found a link between doctors' gender and patients' survival differences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No turbulence for canines in the cabin

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Can dogs fly? Of course, as long as owners prep well and pooch behaves

Carli Stephens-Rothman
For Torstar News Service

When I arrive at the airport, I have a smile on my face and two brand-name bags strapped to my body. Over my left arm, I've got my new Lug bag, which is both terribly cute and mysteriously convenient. Over my right arm, I'm toting a less stylish, far more cumbersome Sherpa bag. The Lug contains everything I need for a five-day vacation and it's overhead compatible. It's literally a miracle bag. The Sherpa contains only my dog. It's figuratively an anvil.

About five years ago, I decided to stop passing up opportunities to travel simply because I couldn't find a pet sitter. I figured — since she's essentially a loaf of bread with legs, therefore small enough to join me in the cabin — why not? At this point, I don't think twice before including my pet as a fellow passenger.

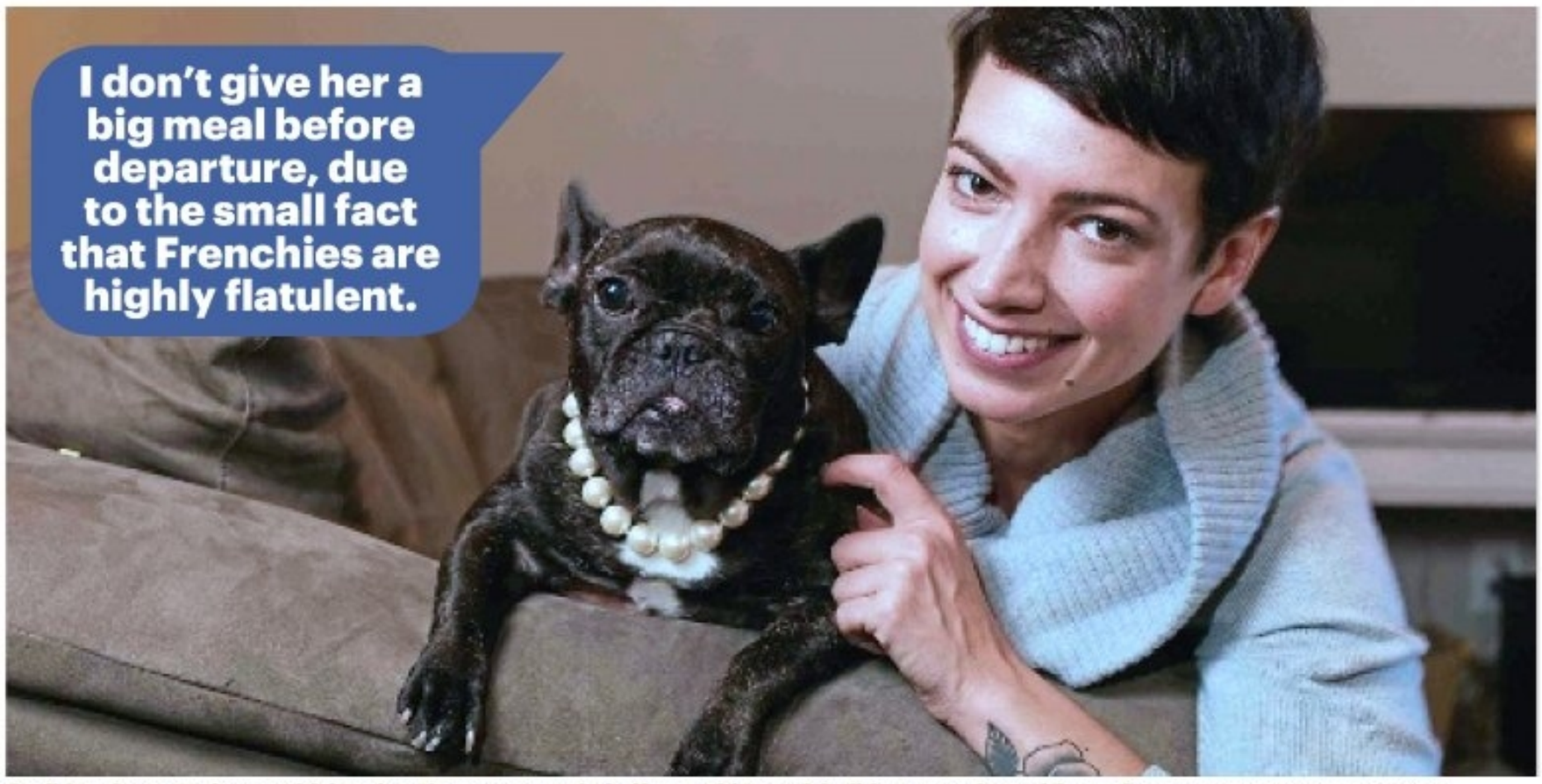
Last month, flying back to Victoria from Edmonton, a woman came to gush over Fig, my dog, who was peeking out of the carrier as I purchased a pre-flight coffee. "A PUGGG," she squealed in the direction of the Sherpa. I've learned to practise acceptance around people who mistake my Frenchie for other flat-faced breeds. After all, as far as I'm concerned, all cats and all babies look exactly the same.

"She's a French bulldog," I correct her politely.

"Does she fly often? Is she quiet on the plane? Does it scare her to be in the air? What if she has to pee? What do the other passengers think?"

I forget sometimes that flying with a pet is an experience not many people have had.

Yes, she flies often — three or four times a year and once I win Lotto 6/49, she'll be sky-bound weekly! Most major hotels keep pet-friendly suites at no extra cost.



Carli Stephens-Rothman with her dog Fig, a seven and a half year old French bulldog, complete with pearls. KEN FAUGHT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fig is generally a quiet dog, but even more so when we're in flight. Our vet told us that the vibrations of the plane are actually quite soothing, as it reminds dogs of lying up against their mother. So, cruising altitude for me is snoozing altitude for her. As for best potty practices, it's recommended to limit a dog's water intake for three hours pre-flight. In Fig's case, I don't give her a big meal before departure, due to the small fact that Frenchies are highly flatulent. Let's just say I've skipped many an in-flight movie to watch the drama unfold — a woman nudging her husband accusingly over a fart he didn't commit; his expression of innocence and confusion.

Truth be told, the most challenging part of flying with pets are the people on planes without pets. Not everyone is happy to have an animal on board. I've had people ask to switch seats to be farther from us and once I had someone ask me if I couldn't just "catch the next one," because "dog-smell" upsets her, as if air travel was like public transit and another flight to Winnipeg would be along in five minutes. In those cases, I just keep my head down and try not to comment on the fact that their smell, a bouquet of duty free perfume, is incinerating my sinuses.

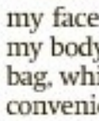
$60

Most major airlines flying within Canada accommodate pets, assuming they're under about 10 kilograms, for about $60 round trip.

"But what about legitimate pet allergies," you may wonder. Tough Milk-bones, I guess. Most airlines will help allergy-ridden travellers by switching their seats to be further from the sneeze-inducing creature, but aside from that, allergy sufferers are not left with many options. Air Canada, for example, only allows one pet per flight, but many flights have just that.

If I want to have the privilege of flight with my fur-babe, I have to be respectful. That means answering questions amiably and handling the more fragrant naysayers with grace. It also means following the rules at all times; not taking her out of her bag in the cabin, only walking her on the leash in airports that permit it, having all health-related documents ready in advance and returning to the luggage trolley to collect my bags only after I've taken her outside to relieve herself.

Overall, though the pet carrier's heavy, I feel much lighter knowing my dog's by my side. Travelling with Fig comes down to just this: Passport? Check. Boarding pass? Yep. House keys? Probably not, but I'll figure that out when I get back. Snorting, scratching, farting four-legged beast? It wouldn't be a vacation without one.



JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Savouring a return trip to wonderland

The SNL cast of 1975 get festive. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Saturday Night Live Christmas Special THE MOMENT: Winter Wonderland

Toward the end of this compilation of skits from SNL's 50-odd Christmas shows, this gem rose up from the very first season.

Dec. 20, 1975. Candice Bergen is hosting. Garrett Morris, in a red sweater and green-and-white striped scarf, begins singing Winter Wonderland into a hand mike. He sings really well. Backing him is the long-haired, bearded SNL house band, dressed as scruffy angels.

After a few bars, Bergen, Gilda Radner, Laraine Newman and Jane Curtin dash onstage and join in around one standing mike. They're wearing red caps, red T-shirts that read "Merry Christmas," and grey sweatpants tucked into very '70s boots. A few bars later, Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi stroll in wearing pea coats and scarves; they add a basso doo-wop. As the song builds to its final verse, low-rent snow begins to fall.

This number was a time machine for me — suddenly I was 13 years old, watching it for the first time on the red Panasonic in my childhood bedroom, in love with the cast and itching for New York. Its no-budget shabbiness was part of the glamour; its thrown-together feel radiated joy.

Everyone looks impossibly young, especially Radner and Belushi, whom we lost too soon. But I didn't feel nostalgia. I was there: in the ache of Christmas, yearning for a big life. It's not that I don't remember who I was or what things were like then. It's the opposite. I still feel like that person. It's the years in between that blur.

SNL returns Jan. 14 to NBC and Global.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Mommy brain is real

PREGNANCY

Memory stays intact, but MRI data signals definite change

Results of the study hint that such upgrades may prepare a woman for motherhood. ISTOCK

Pregnancy affects not only a woman's body: It changes parts of her brain too, a new study says.

When researchers compared brain scans of women before and after pregnancy, they spotted some differences in 11 locations. They also found hints that the alterations help women prepare for motherhood. For example, they might help a mother understand the needs of her infant, Elseline Hoekzema, a study author, explained.

Hoekzema is a neuroscientist at Leiden University in the Netherlands who began working on the study while at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain. She and colleagues present the results in a paper released by the journal Nature Neuroscience.

It includes data on 25 Spanish women scanned before and after their first pregnancies, along with 20 women who didn't get pregnant during the study. The brain changes in the pregnancy group emerged from comparisons of those two groups.

And the changes, first documented an average of 10 weeks after giving birth, were mostly still present two years later. Studies showed they're a motherhood thing: No brain changes were seen in first-time fathers.

The women showed no declines on tests of memory. Based on prior research findings, the researchers think the brain changes happened during pregnancy rather than after childbirth.

What's going on? Hoekzema and colleagues think the differences result from sex hormones that flood the brain of a pregnant woman. In the 11 places, the MRI data indicate reductions in volume of the brain's grey matter, but it's not clear what that means. It could reflect loss of brain cells or a pruning of the places where brain cells communicate, called synapses.

Losing some synapses is not necessarily a bad thing. It happens during adolescence, producing more specialized and efficient brain circuits. Researchers suspect that could be happening in the pregnant women.

The affected brain areas overlapped with circuitry that's involved in figuring out what another person is thinking and feeling. That's a handy ability for a mother tending to an infant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natalie Bobier-Gariépy named her baby Liam, which is Canada's top boy name for 2016. CONTRIBUTED

BABY NAMES

Olivia still the apple of Ontario's eyes

For the fifth year in a row, Olivia is the most popular baby name in Ontario.

The annual list from the provincial government also shows Charlotte and Henry leaping ahead on the annual list widely read by parents.

Officials said Charlotte has proven 105 times more popular in the last year while Henry is 83 times more popular.

Rounding out the top 10 names are Emma, Liam, Benjamin, Noah, Lucas, Ethan, Charlotte, William and Ava.

Parents have a year after naming a child to register the birth on the Service Ontario website to get a birth certificate, social insurance number and qualify for child benefits.

JUMP IN JACOBS

Ottawa's hottest names

There will be plenty of little Jacobs and Olivias showing up for Kindergarten four years from now in Ottawa. Those two names topped the list for little bundles of joy in the capital.

Olivia was followed by Charlotte, Emma, Abigail and Mia. Following Jacob in Ottawa was William, Benjamin, Noah, and James and Samuel, which tied for fifth place.

New names on the list this year were Tenley, Riaan and Eason. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SPORTS
Hundreds of Wellington cyclists turned out Tuesday to ride with Lance
Armstrong, who is in New Zealand to film a TV ad

Patriots co-ordinators in line for coaching gigs

NFL

McDaniels and Patricia have helped sustain powerhouse

The Patriots earned a first-round bye in the playoffs — a valuable week off that will let the players rest their legs and the co-ordinators schedule their job interviews.

Josh McDaniels and Matt Patricia have been considered among the best minds in football for a while now. The jobs they're doing this season — their latest gems came in a 16-3 victory over the Broncos on Sunday — have only bolstered their standing.

Matt Patricia GETTY IMAGES

McDaniels' best work of 2016 came at the beginning, when he was preparing the offence to go the first four games without Tom Brady while the quarterback served his "Deflategate" suspension. Using backup quarterbacks, New England won the first three and scored 81 points. From there, the Patriots' offence has adjusted, as usual, amid a slew of injuries, including that to All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski.

Patricia is being lauded for virtually revamping the defence on a near-weekly basis. He has dealt with personnel shuffling — including the off-season trade of Chandler Jones, the early suspension of Rob Ninkovich and the Jamie Collins trade in midseason — but has also managed to give his defence, devoid of big stars, completely new looks almost every week, depending on the opponent.

The Patriots (12-2) enter the final two weeks of the season with the best record in the AFC. They won their eighth straight division title and have already guaranteed themselves a bye in the first week of the playoffs.

Patricia and McDaniels would be available for interviews during that off week, if they choose. Last month, when the NFL Career Development Advisory Panel put out a preliminary list of head-coaching candidates, it left McDaniels off the list. That came in the wake of reports that the 40-year-old coach was more interested in replacing head coach Bill Belichick someday than starting over elsewhere.

In an un-Patriots-like move, McDaniels went out of his way to say he'd love another crack at a head coaching job. Currently, there are openings in Los Angeles and Jacksonville. In his first shot at being a head coach, McDaniels started 6-0 in Denver, but was fired early in his second season after losing 17 of the next 22. Lowlights of his tenure included a videotaping scandal and his draft pick of Tim Tebow — one of many personnel moves that caused problems and ultimately didn't work out.

"There are only 32 of those (jobs) in the world," he said. "They're opportunities that don't come along very often, and if you would ever be so fortunate and blessed to have another opportunity to do it ... it would be an opportunity that I would look forward to."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patriots offensive co-ordinator Josh McDaniels confers with quarterback Tom Brady during a recent game in Foxborough, Mass. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"I can't imagine that there are many other coaches that could present a resumé equal or comparable to theirs.**
> Patriots head coach Bill Belichick

POLITICS

Panthers owner tabbed for defence

Vincent Viola has insisted for the past three years that his sole focus as owner of the Florida Panthers was to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

He'll be otherwise occupied now.

Viola's nomination by President-elect Donald Trump on Monday to be the next secretary of the Army means he will be giving up his roles as chairman and governor of the Panthers, pending his confirmation by the Senate.

But the Panthers said the move will not change the day-to-day hockey operations.

Vincent Viola GETTY IMAGES

"Zero effect on us," Panthers president and CEO Matthew Caldwell said. "His ownership still stays with his family. There'll be no changes in positions, and nothing for the front office or management team."

Viola, a 1977 West Point graduate who bought the Panthers in 2013, plans to have the chairman and governor positions filled by his longtime business partner Doug Cifu.

The NHL offered Viola congratulations.

"The club has assured us that the day-to-day operations of the Panthers' franchise will not be affected by this development, and we will certainly work closely with the club to ensure that is the case," the NHL said in a statement.

"Mr. Viola and team ownership have further advised that they remain completely committed to South Florida and to the Panthers' fans."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORLD JUNIORS

Strome to wear C for Team Canada

Dylan Strome was named captain of Canada's team for the world junior hockey championship with Mathew Barzal and Thomas Chabot as alternate captains, Hockey Canada announced Monday.

All three are back from last year's world juniors, where Canada was eliminated in the semi-finals by host Finland.

The choices were no surprise. Strome, an Erie Otter forward who started the season with the Arizona Coyotes, Barzal, a New York Islanders first-round pick and a Seattle Thunderbirds forward, and Chabot, an Ottawa Senators prospect defenceman from the Saint John Sea Dogs, are expected to be key players when the tournament opens Jan. 26 in Toronto and Montreal.

Dylan Strome GETTY IMAGES

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIFA

British federations fined for poppy displays

The four British soccer federations were fined Monday by FIFA for displaying poppies at World Cup qualifying matches in November.

England's federation must pay 45,000 Swiss francs ($58,732) for the "display of a political symbol" at a home match against Scotland on Nov. 11. Scotland was fined 20,000 Swiss francs ($26,103).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Injury-time goal gives Liverpool win

Sadio Mane grabbed the winner in the fourth minute of injury time as Liverpool beat Everton 1-0 on Monday to head into Christmas in second place in the Premier League and extend its recent dominance of Merseyside derbies.

227
Monday's match was the 227th Merseyside derby.

Substitute Daniel Sturridge's low long-range shot dribbled against the post and Mane tapped the rebound into an empty net, sparking wild celebrations among Liverpool supporters that saw two red flares thrown onto the playing surface.

Liverpool moved above Manchester City and back to within six points of Chelsea, which has won its last 11 league games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"Vinnie has proved throughout his life that he knows how to be a leader and deliver major results in the face of any challenge.**
> Donald Trump

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Elegant Leek and Artichoke Frittata

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This pale green beauty comes together in no time with quick-cooking leeks and soft, canned artichokes. Goat cheese and Dijon mustard give it just enough bite.

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 leek, washed thoroughly, sliced thinly
- 1 can (14 oz) artichokes, drained
- 8 eggs
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper
- 2 oz goat cheese crumbled
- 3 scallions, sliced

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a large, oven-proof skillet, warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Sauté the garlic and leeks until they soften, about 3 minutes. Now add the artichokes and stir.

3. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, Dijon mustard, and season with salt and pepper. Gently pour the eggs over the vegetables in the skillet. Sprinkle the goat cheese and scallions over top.

4. Carefully place the skillet in the oven and bake for 15 minutes, until the frittata is set. Serve with a green salad.

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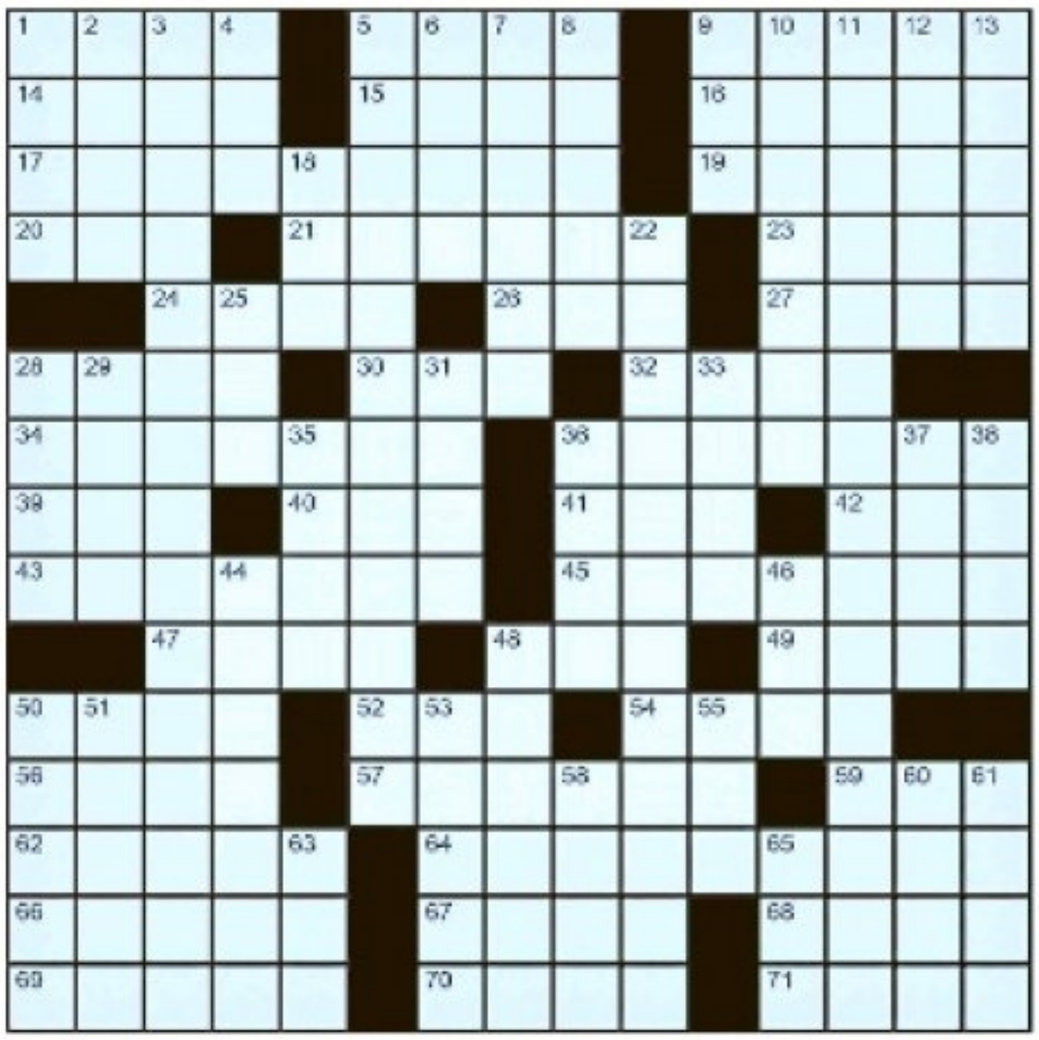
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Monsieur Le Pew
5. Sleeves
9. Aunt's hubby, in Quebec
14. Perched above
15. Tooth part
16. "Oh, _ _ a wonderful time, thank you." (Couple's departing-a-party comment)
17. Community north of Brandon in Manitoba: 2 wds.
19. Barrel slat
20. T.O. transport provider
21. In and of _
23. Paul McCartney ballad: "Jenny _"
24. "Dedicated to the _ _ Love" by The Shirelles
26. "Fantasy Island" souvenir
27. Alberta town
28. Literature heroine Jane
30. '_' _ for Christmas
32. Ginger Spice
34. Sloppy Joe sauce brand
36. Carnivorous carvees at Christmas
39. Assoc.
40. "Chandelier" singer
41. Sequence, shortened
42. Web connector, commonly
43. Puffin, for one: 2 wds.
45. One acquiring knowledge
47. US campus mil. program
48. Ginger _
49. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
50. Bandmate to #32-Across: name + letter
52. Globe's long. crosser
54. Heel height unit
56. _ the crack of dawn: 2 wds.
57. Arise
59. Hesitant sounds
62. Mia Farrow's activist son
64. Scrooge's sour sentiment: 2 wds.
66. Farewell, in Rome
67. "Shall _ _ the table?" (Pre-dinner query)
68. Toolbox item
69. 'Mechanical Resonance' band
70. Red Rose products
71. Firewood-making needs

DOWN
1. Role
2. Coup d'_
3. Home-created Christmas tree decorations: 2 wds.
4. Prefix to 'centre'
5. Santa's toy manufacturing facility is located in this region: 2 wds.
6. Kings: French
7. Road trip accommodations
8. Fashion sense
9. "That hurts!" equivalents
10. CTV, for one
11. Island of Misfit Toys denizen in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
12. Washed
13. Paradises
18. Gambling cube
22. Ice skating formations: 2 wds.
25. Fresh
28. Some punk music fans
29. Lively
31. "If only _ _ known."
33. Earth goddess in Das Rheingold
35. "Whose Line _ _ Anyway?"
36. Cost
37. River of Flanders
38. Agile
44. Jingly sleigh-puller's bells location
46. Mr. Ocasek
48. Feeling calm: 2 wds.
50. Napoleon marshal, Joachim _ (b.1767 - d.1815)
51. Lyric poem
53. Scope
55. Modern, in Munich
58. Ms. Perlman
60. Govern
61. Boot camp titles, briefly
63. Cacharel perfume
65. Commerce deg.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Observe your interactions with others during the next six weeks, because you could be your own worst enemy. It will be easy to fall into childish, self-defeating behaviour.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will be aggressive in the coming month when dealing with others, especially groups. This will help you if you coach a team; however, lighten up when with your friends.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your ambition will be aroused in the next six weeks, which is why you will work hard to achieve what you want. Think about your goals for the coming year.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your desire to travel will be strong during the next six weeks. Mars wants you to have a change of scenery. Meanwhile, steer clear of controversial issues involving politics, religion and race.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Disputes about shared property and the values of others might arise now. Stay mellow, because one man's meat is another man's poison.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will have to be extra patient with friends and partners during the next six weeks, because fiery Mars is opposite your sign. Forewarned is forearmed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You'll find it easy to work hard and give your job everything you've got during the next six weeks. Be careful not to be bossy with others.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is the perfect time for many of you to take a cruise or slip away on a vacation, because you want to play! The next six weeks offer opportunities for fun and romance.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your home scene will be a bit chaotic during the next six weeks. This means you must be extra patient with family members and others at home.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
All your communication with others will be unusually direct and forthright in the next six weeks. It's a strong time for those who communicate for a living.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will work hard until February to boost your earnings. Ironically, you also will work hard to spend your money.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Fiery Mars will be in your sign until the end of January, which makes you aggressive and pumped. This will give you lots of energy and help you get things done.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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8								6
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	7		4		5		3	

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2	9	5	1	4	7	6	8	3
3	6	1	9	8	5	2	4	7
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5	2	8	3	7	1	9	6	4
1	3	7	4	6	9	8	2	5
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4	1	3	6	9	8	5	7	2

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